

KEEPING THINGS UP TO CODE

Keeping things up to Code is a service that the citizens of Lake County have come to expect. Most people breathe a sigh of relief when they see a deputy patrolling or firefighters rushing to an emergency.

They should feel just as relieved when they see a Code Enforcement Officer inspecting a dilapidated building, investigating an illegal dumping grounds, responding to a noise complaint or any other zoning or code violation. Citizens often call about a junk car, overgrown lawns, garbage strewn in yards or a boat parked in the front driveway.

The primary purpose of code enforcement is to ensure public safety, health and welfare. Code violations are not just eyesores, in some cases they can seriously jeopardize the public's health and welfare. When junk accumulates on property, hazardous substances can damage the environment or end up in the hands of children.

Unsafe and abandoned buildings are a play haven for neighborhood children, an open invitation for teenagers, and they provide cover for drug activities and other serious crimes. Such violations blight our neighborhoods, cause property values to plummet and greatly endangers the safety of our youth.

Lake County conducted more than 10,000 investigations of code violations last year. For more information concerning Lake County Codes and the Division of Code Enforcement, please call 352-343-9639.

Outline of Presentation:

- Lake County Code Enforcement
- Enforce violations of Land Development Regulations, and various Zoning Ordinances concerning land use in the County.
- To make a complaint call 352-343-9639. You may leave your name or remain anonymous. Give the address location of the alleged violation, general directions, and the alleged violations observed on the property.
- An initial inspection is conducted within 7 – 14 days. Violators will be given options and a reasonable time frame to comply.
- The Commissioners appoint the Special Master. The Special Master receives and evaluates evidence and testimony regarding the alleged violations, then decides penalties and remedies. First time violators can receive a fine of up to \$250.00 per day, repeat violators can receive a fine of up to \$500.00 per day, and irreversible and irreparable violations can receive a fine up to \$15,000 per violation. Hearings are heard at 9:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month.
- Unpaid fines are recorded as liens on the property and may result in foreclosure.
- Questions?